

## REMARKS

The foregoing claim amendments are presented to delete the multiple dependencies of the original claims. No new matter is presented.

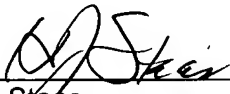
Accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing claim amendments are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: January 9, 2004

By:   
H. J. Staas  
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501